

UPI-7

(POWERS)

WASHINGTON--SENATORS TODAY APPARENTLY HAD NO PLANS TO CALL FRANCIS GARY POWERS FOR TESTIMONY BUT EXPECTED A FULL REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERROGATIONS OF THE U2 PILOT.

THE POSITION OF TWO KEY SENATE GROUPS BECAME KNOWN AFTER SECRETARY RUSK SAID POWERS' RELEASE FROM A RUSSIAN PRISON REPRESENTED "A PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THE COMMUNIST AND THE FREE WORLDS."

RUSK SAID IN A RADIO INTERVIEW (WESTINGHOUSE BROADCASTING -- WASHINGTON VIEWPOINT) THAT IT HELPED TO GET "UNNECESSARY IRRITATIONS" OUT OF THE WAY, "BUT I WOULD NOT DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS RETURN OF MR. POWERS WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS LIKE BIRMAN OR SOUTHEAST ASIA."

AT LEAST TWO SENATE SUB-COMMITTEES WANTED DETAILED REPORTS ON WHAT POWERS HAD TO SAY AFTER HIS RELEASE. CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., OF A SENATE WATCHDOG SUBCOMMITTEE SAID HE PLANNED TO FOLLOW THE MATTER CLOSELY.

RUSSELL SAID, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT NOW EXPECT POWERS TO BE CALLED IN PERSON BEFORE THE PANEL, WHICH RIDES HERD ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

"WE HAVE HAD TWO OR THREE MEETINGS AT WHICH THE U2 MATTER WAS THOROUGHLY REVIEWED. WE HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WERE KEPT ADVISED OF THE PROGRESS," RUSSELL SAID, IN AN INTERVIEW.

RUSSELL SAID HIS GROUP MET WITH JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, AS RECENTLY AS LAST THURSDAY. HE SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE U2 MATTER "WHEN THE GOVERNMENT AND BRITIES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INTERROGATION" OF POWERS.

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH HELD CLOSED-DOOR HEARINGS ON THE U2 INCIDENT SHORTLY AFTER POWERS' RECONNAISSANCE PLANE CRASHED IN RUSSIA, NOTIFIED THE STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY IT WANTED A FULL REPORT TOO AFTER POWERS HAS BEEN QUESTIONED. IT DID NOT PLAN TO CALL POWERS EITHER, HOWEVER.

2/13--GE903A